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ADDRESS,  
AND  
DECLARATION  
OF THE SOCIETY OF  
CONSTITUTIONAL WHIGS, INDEPENDENT,  
AND FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE,  
UNITED FOR OBTAINING  
EQUAL LIBERTY,  
BY A  
PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

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BROTHERS AND FELLOW CITIZENS!

**A**S the Wealth and Security of this Country depends on the Number and Industry of the PEOPLE, it has become particularly necessary at this period, to contribute in every possible way to their ease and satisfaction; and, being invited by the Liberty and Equality enjoyed under the new Constitution of France, thousands of our most useful Artizans and Mechanics should be induced to emigrate to that Nation, in order to avoid the oppressions of this. For though we hold the present system of French Politics in the highest veneration, and congratulate THEM on the overthrow of Tyranny, which has opened a sanctuary  
for



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for the persecuted of every Clime, yet we should be wanting in Love to our Country, were we at once to avail ourselves of that relief, not having first endeavoured to obtain, by REASON and REMONSTRANCE, that Reform which is now so requisite.

To prevent as much as possible such Emigrations from taking place, the effect of which would be the utter ruin of our COMMERCE—and the consequent poverty and degradation of this Nation—it has become expedient for THE PEOPLE to associate, for the purpose of obtaining a PARLIAMENTARY REFORM: That thro' the medium of a fair and equal Representation, annually chosen, they may be relieved from a load of Taxes, too grievous to be borne, and rendered still more intolerable, by their Produce being lavished on PLACEMEN and PENSIONERS, and employed in subverting their RIGHTS, by the corruption of their DELEGATES!

That it is necessary to unite for the attainment of so laudable a Reformation is obvious; as it is only by Associating and declaring our Sentiments, that the WILL OF THE NATION can at this time be made known: it being impossible to collect it under the present unequal and corrupt state of the Representation.

And as it is the duty of every true Friend to his Country to come forward and communicate his thoughts to his oppressed Brethren, that by their united Wisdom and Efforts they may, through their DELEGATES, revise, correct, or expunge from their GOVERNMENT,

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VERNMENT, all those Laws which have originated either from the prejudice, partiality, ignorance, or rapacity of those whom they have entrusted with Power.

WE DECLARE TO THE WORLD our disapprobation and disgust at the sanguinary Code of CRIMINAL LAWS which at present disgrace us in the opinion of all wise and good men—At the unjust and arbitrary extension of odious EXCISE-LAWS, which deprive the accused of TRIAL BY JURY, and which are totally subversive of LIBERTY, wherever they are enforced :—At the impolitic and absurd usage of PERPETUAL IMPRISONMENT for DEBT; which tends to corrupt the Morals of the wretched sufferers, and robs their Families and the Community of the advantage of their LABOUR ;—At the illegal practice of IMPRESSING MEN for the equipment of our Fleets; whereby they are torn from their kindred and friends, and finally left destitute, A PREY TO POVERTY, DISEASE, AND WRETCHEDNESS !—At the infamous Trade of kidnapping Men and Boys, for the purpose of recruiting a STANDING ARMY, which is the cause of enormous *Expence and Oppression*, during the time of profound Peace, depriving the unhappy victims of their right of Citizenship, unfitting them for pursuing beneficial employments, and subjecting them to a life of SLAVERY, for the gratification and pride of their unfeeling OPPRESSORS : And, that it is a shameful Reflection on our LEGISLATORS, that they should be so careful to secure the PROPERTY of Youth, yet so negligent of their MORALS, and their PERSONAL FREEDOM !

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With a view to the *Melioration* of our Government,  
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TANS, &c. &c.* are Brethren.

Signed, (by Order of the Society)

**JOHN NICHOLS, Secretary.**

No. 46, Old Compton-Street, Soho,  
London, November 5. 1792.

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